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15 June 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Initiation of a National Intelligence Study on
"Soviet Military Assistance to the Chinese
Communists"

1. In the course of drafting a number of NIE's, the need has become increasingly apparent for a detailed study and rigorous analysis of certain key problems that would provide a firmer basis than now exists for general estimative conclusions. To be of maximum effectiveness, these studies must be more limited in scope and more factual in content than is customary or appropriate for NIE's.

2. As a concrete example, it has become increasingly clear that a sound estimate of the probable Soviet and Chinese Communist courses of action in the Far East cannot be made without a detailed study of available intelligence on the extent and character of Soviet military assistance to the Chinese Communists. A staff study on this subject would have to be prepared on an all-source basis and should present the evidence supporting the generalizations arrived at. Where appropriate, the reliability of the evidence also should be indicated in such a way as to distinguish between areas where we have firm evidence and where we are proceeding on the basis of deduction or supposition.

3. I recommend, therefore, that a National Intelligence Study on "Soviet Military Assistance to the Chinese Communists" be prepared by the IAC Agencies, with ID taking primary responsibility for the work. . . .

WILLIAM L. LANGER
Assistant Director
National Estimates

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